

REMARKS

In view of the Examiner's comments:

- a. Page 4 of the Specification has been amended to correct the typographical error;
- b. Claim 15 has been amended to provide the proper dependence;
- c. Claims 1-13 have been canceled;
- d. Claims 14-19 have been amended to more specifically define Applicant's invention and to more clearly distinguish it from the cited references: and
- e. Claims 20-27 have been added, with Claims 21-23 depending from added Claim 20, and with Claims 25-27 depending from added Claim 24.

As Applicant's Specification sets out, the present invention discloses a carry bag for an inserted rolled yoga mat, with the bag having an air permeable end cap to ventilate the mat when placed within. As the description indicates, and as the drawings illustrate, the carry bag holds a rolled yoga mat inserted into the bag with or without an encircling band around it. As now more specifically defined in Claims 14-23 and 24-27, the carry bag is of substantially cylindrical configuration having a diameter which encloses the yoga mat when inserted with an encircling band -- and holds the mat rolled as it tries to unfurl in the carry bag if inserted without an encircling band. Inserted through a first opened end of the carry bag, the yoga mat continues to be ventilated by the closed opposite end being air permeable as it supports the mat within the cylindrical configuration of the carry bag.

As to the Examiner's comments concerning the cited Nathan patent, such contentions are respectfully traversed. First of all, Nathan is concerned with, and only shows, a tote bag for carrying snorkeling gear, having a bottom of essentially square configuration, consisting of a plastic mesh. As Applicant's Specification makes clear, yoga devotees shun leather products as well as they do "synthetics". Even if the Examiner were correct in saying that the Nathan device could somehow be modified to store and transport a yoga mat, the very simple fact remains that doing so would be abhorrent to the yoga practitioner and an abomination through this use of a

synthetic plastic mesh for its bottom 25. Similarly using plastic piping and adhesives or heat welding in forming the bottom (as Nathan sets out) would likewise be something that the yoga devotee would not live with nor accept. This is particularly made clear in Claims 19-23 and 25-27 of Applicant's claims, in calling out the carry bag of the invention as being composed of non-synthetic fabrics.

As should also be appreciated, this is besides the distinction attaching to the specific language of the amended Claims herein that the carry bag is of a cylindrical configuration sufficient to hold a rolled yoga mat within as it may try to unfurl without any encircling band to hold it rolled up. With such an encircling band present, furthermore, the dimensions specified retain the rolled up shape of the yoga mat when it is inserted -- neither of which is suggested nor disclosed by either Nathan or the cited Benedict patent which discloses nothing about carry bags whatsoever. Simply stated, none of the references of record show the carrying of a rolled yoga mat, either banded or not, in a non-synthetic fabric bag having an air permeable bottom to allow ventilation of the yoga mat. And, clearly, none of these references show its shoulder strap carry handle, or its drawstring which closes the bag at the top for weather protection.

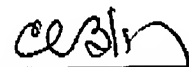
As none of the cited references either suggest the problem confronting Applicant, or disclose Applicant's solution to the problem, and as the Claims as now amended highlight these non-disclosed and non-suggested features, Claims 14-27 are believed to be patentably distinct and allowable.

This Application is now considered to be in condition for Allowance. Allowance of Claims 14-27 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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